

## Why JDAI?

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**“Ten years ago, before JDAI, there were hundreds of kids under the age of 12 placed in detention annually. Kids were cuffed and shackled; getting off the van, and sorted into various secure settings ...It was the wrong kids, in the wrong place and for the wrong reasons.”**

-Commissioner Edward Dolan, Massachusetts Probation Service

**“Prior to JDAI the practitioners related to detention had no systemic focus.... youth experienced a pretty disconnected system.”**

- Commissioner Peter Forbes, Department of Youth Services

**“JDAI is an effective strategy that is smart on crime and has produced quantifiable positive results.”** - Glenn Daly, JDAI Governance Committee, Executive Office of Health and Human Services

**“Stakeholders are committed to a collaborative effort here in Massachusetts towards combined efforts of positive youth development for our youth involved in the Juvenile Justice system.”**

- Chief Justice Amy Nechtem, Massachusetts Juvenile Court

## What has the Commonwealth Achieved through JDAI?

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### **Decreased Juvenile Incarceration While Maintaining Public Safety**

As groups across the Commonwealth collaborated on detention reform, overall detention admissions decreased to just over 1,800 children in 2016, a remarkable 57% decrease from baseline in 2007. Notably, the yearly juvenile census population in Massachusetts increased by approximately 51,000 from 2007 – 2017.

Today it is less likely that a juvenile court judge in Massachusetts will determine that a youth needs to be in detention, regardless of case type. Even while the detention rate was declining, we have seen a corollary downward trend in the arrest rate for juveniles.

Following the reduction in detention for juveniles, the data reflect a continual decrease in juvenile crime across the Commonwealth.

JDAI partners are proving that the use of more alternatives to detention is positively impacting the safety in our communities, since young people are 50% less likely to be arrested today than when JDAI began. After 10 years of implementing JDAI, participating sites acknowledge that there are more effective, less harmful ways to ensuring public safety and are committed to ensuring that a detention admission is reserved as a last resort.

## Develop a better collaborative model

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In Massachusetts JDAI, data driven collaboration works. Partners are involved in JDAI because they want to be a part of improving outcomes and fixing systems designed to help youth and families. Only when all partners are together, and driven by local data, can true meaningful reform happen. Locally, a collaborative's multi-disciplinary partners review data to identify areas of improvement. Once consensus is achieved on the nature of the problem and a solution strategy is identified, stakeholders work together to implement strategies that improve the overall system.

Here's a small sample of recent work done in counties in Massachusetts to improve juvenile justice outcomes:

- Developed CORE: Community Options Release Engagement, in Suffolk County utilizes a collaborative approach to achieve the goal of reducing the length of stay for our young people in detention through partnership with community-based agencies to ensure successful release into the community.
- Created a Racial and Ethnic Disparity Subcommittee in Hampden County to support the screening and facilitated discussion of [Seeing RED](#) to increase awareness of disparity among local stakeholders to achieve the goal of increased equity.
- Implemented a Diversion Pilot Program in Worcester County utilizing a data-driven approach to identify a target population of young people, those arrested on domestic assault and battery, to divert from arraignment and provide necessary supports to both the youth and family.

# Massachusetts JDAI

*Milestones and Expectations: Year One of JDAI*

## Year One Milestones

<b>Summer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Counties Selected; JDAI Local Coordinator assigned</li> <li>- Strategy &amp; planning sessions with JDAI Local Coordinator to discuss leadership, committee membership, organization and support from the statewide network.</li> <li>- Develop Committee Leadership through Co-Chair Designations</li> <li>- Participate in a County System Assessment.</li> </ul>
<b>Early Fall</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attend and Support New County Kick-Off Meeting</li> <li>- Assist collaborative members in completing membership to JDAIconnect and to reviewing the Fundamentals training as an introduction</li> <li>- Convene First Monthly Committee Meeting; Prioritize areas of work from findings of System Assessment.</li> <li>- Host/Participate in County trainings to support JDAI reforms</li> <li>- Attend Model Site Visit</li> </ul>
<b>Late Fall</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Host/Participate in County trainings to support JDAI reforms</li> <li>- Attend JDAI 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference</li> </ul>
<b>January 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete County Work Plan (see “Year One and Two Expectations” for proposed activities to include in work plan)</li> </ul>

## Year One and Two Expectations, by JDAI Core Strategy

### Strategy: Collaboration

- ☐ Invite necessary system and community stakeholders to participate
- ☐ Immersion:
  - Join JDAIconnect; Complete fundamentals training
  - Attend a model site visit
  - Attend Massachusetts JDAI Annual Conference
  - Attend and host local trainings
  - Become familiar with the JDAI Core Strategies for Detention Reform
- ☐ Establish a work plan

#### Strategy: Data Driven Decision Making

- ☐ Conduct a system assessment with county leadership completed with state support
- ☐ Assess capacity/ develop capacity to produce routine reports
- ☐ Develop template for regular data reporting agreed upon by committee
- ☐ Develop capacity to dig deeper into identified areas of improvement
- ☐ Review results of a Detention Utilization Study
- ☐ Review and use data to diagnose system areas of improvement, identify/implement appropriate core strategies/improvement strategies and track outcomes.

#### Strategy: Objective Screening

- ☐ Utilize the J-PAST for all youth arraigned
- ☐ Analyze use of secure detention for “low” and “medium” scoring youth.
- ☐ Disaggregate by race, ethnicity and gender.

#### Strategy: Alternatives to Detention Programs

- ☐ Inventory the alternatives to detention programs offered in the county
- ☐ Develop a mechanism to track usage of ATDs and outcomes related to recidivism and failure to appear.

#### Strategy: Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- ☐ Disaggregate data by race/ethnicity
- ☐ Assess points of disparity in system by calculating the Relative Rate Index (RRI)
- ☐ Review best practices from leading experts, like the Burns Institute and model JDAI sites, for reducing racial and ethnic disparities and increasing equity

#### Strategy: Case Processing

- ☐ Map the juvenile justice system decision points in the county and document length of time between each interval to identify where delay is occurring.
- ☐ Dig deeper into the decision points where delay is most prevalent to determine which factors contribute to the delays.

#### Strategy: Special Population Cases

- ☐ Identify target populations for detention reform (i.e., younger populations, youth of color, females, school offenses, domestic assaults on a family member, warrants, etc.)
- ☐ Create sub-committees, as needed, to identify areas of improvement, gain consensus on improvement strategies, implement improvement strategies and track outcomes.

#### Strategy: Conditions of Confinement

- ☐ Work with statewide committee to conduct a Facility Assessment and develop a plan to implement recommended reforms